

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, March 12, 2001

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 12, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, send forth Your prophetic and discerning Spirit upon this chamber and this Nation.

Why is it we can recognize grace building upon grace and goodness begetting goodness, yet, without Your Spirit, fail to see lie feeding lie and evil eroding everything around it.

Whenever any part of society or government has forsaken You, O Lord, or any member of family or branch of corporation disregards common faith or breaks sacred trust, the whole body trembles.

Our oneness is disturbed by any negative force. Our sinful behavior affects not only our relationship with You, Almighty Father, but impacts one another.

Isaiah says, "The whole head is sick, the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot to the head there is no sound spot."

Be moved by our repentance, Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FILNER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

S. Con. Res. 22. Concurrent resolution honoring the 21 members of the National Guard who were killed in the crash of a National Guard aircraft on March 3, 2001, in south-central Georgia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-550, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the James Madison Commemoration Commission Advisory Committee—

Gary G. Aguiar of South Dakota; and Jack N. Rakove of California.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 9, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 9, 2001 at 9:08 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 47.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L,
Clerk of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to Public Law 106-292 (36 U.S.C. 2301) the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council:

Mr. LANTOS of California;
Mr. FROST of Texas.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM PROFITEERING ENERGY PRODUCERS AND MARKETERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, last summer I was on the floor many times as the Congressman from San Diego, California, with a grave electricity crisis and said, "The rest of California better watch. The rest of the West of the United States better watch. The rest of the United States better watch, because they are next." Sure enough, they are next. Let us talk about this electricity crisis today and how we are going to get out of it.

Let me remind Members that San Diego, California, was ground zero in this crisis. Our county became the first area in California where full electricity deregulation occurred in both retail and wholesale prices. Within 60 days, Mr. Speaker, our prices to families, to those on fixed incomes, to small business doubled and then tripled. There was no end in sight.

In fact, dozens of small businesses were forced to close their doors. Panic literally engulfed San Diego, and the State legislature responded with a deferred cap on retail prices; that is, a cap on the real cost of electricity that would be deferred for several years. So each month since last August the debt for San Diego consumers, the debt for San Diego businesses, has mounted monthly.

What caused this incredible price increase? Yes, supply was tight, but demand was less than the previous summer had been. The cost of production had not even risen at that point significantly.

The answer, Mr. Speaker, the answer was market manipulation, in my view criminal manipulation by a wholesale energy cartel. There is evidence that has been supplied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Attorney General of the United States, the State of California Attorney General, our local district attorneys, evidence of supply illegally withheld,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.